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Student laptop plans approved for 2012- 2013 school year

TOMAS ROY
Staff Reporter

After a meeting between Diocese of Charlotte staff and Charlotte Catholic faculty in early March regarding the new student technology plans for the upcoming school year, details about what students should expect are finally set in stone.

Beth Acitelli, the IT Manager at Charlotte Catholic, is primarily responsible for getting this project off the ground. She, as well as Mr. Healy, Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Montague, recently met with Msgr. West, in charge of MACS, Bill Weldon, the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Scott Long, in charge of diocese IT. Together, they discussed the logistics of the new project.

All students attending Charlotte Catholic in the coming school year will receive their own MacBook Air for use throughout the year. According to Mrs. Acitelli, these laptops will be “school owned” but students will be allowed to take their laptops home with them each night as well as over the weekend.

The laptops will be checked in as the school year comes to a close in early June.

The effects this decision will have on Charlotte Catholic’s budget, as well as student tuition, was an important concern discussed at the meeting. MACS tentatively decided families would be responsible for about three to four hundred dollars of the cost of the laptops as a part of each child’s tuition.

Families will be held responsible for any damage to their child’s MacBook, which has a \$900 replacement value. Insurance plans will be available starting at \$55 a year, with varying rates that differ with the plan’s deductible. Families may also cover these laptops with their own insurance policy from Apple.

The MacBooks will also have restrictions like blocking access to Facebook and other websites. A filtering software called Barracuda will maintain this screening both at school and at home.

Many students wonder how these computers will effect their curriculum. While the answer is different for each subject, the



ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR WILL RECEIVE THEIR OWN MACBOOK AIR FOR USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. PHOTO CREDIT: ENGADGET.COM

MacBooks will often be used with digital textbooks. While not all classes will replace textbooks with an online copy available on the new laptops, digital textbooks are, on average, much cheaper than traditional textbooks.

“The digital psychology textbook, for example, costs only \$20, while a new hardcover copy costs \$80” said Mrs. Acitelli. “You typically save 75 percent with a digital book purchase.” However,

because digital AP textbooks only last for a semester, students taking AP course will have to continue buying expensive textbooks.

Each individual department has its own curriculum plans for the new laptops. Mrs. Lerner, Head of the Math Department, named a number of ways she thinks she and other math teachers may use these new MacBooks to their advantage. “Teachers that want students to complete warmups before class can

offer simple quizzes like these right inside Edline,” said Mrs. Lerner. “The results will then automatically update your grade.” Mrs. Lerner also plans to use advanced colorized graphing software as well as online tutorial videos during her classes.

Mrs. Morris, a 10th and 11th grade English teacher, also envisions several uses for the MacBooks when they become a part of her curriculum next year. “When I offer literature seminars, there are always some students who don’t get to say what they’d like to,” said Morris. “I plan to use discussion boards next year which will give every student equal opportunity to join the conversation.”

Throughout the past few weeks, teachers have left their classes for a day to attend training sessions for their own MacBooks. These classes covered the setup of these new computers as well as instructions for Mac apps such as iTunes and Finder. In addition, teachers and faculty plan to use Twitter to communicate with each other on a broad scale.

Musical Theater Competition Team wins top placements in California

KERRI HUGHES
Staff Reporter

This year, the Musical Theater Competition Team brought home the second place overall trophy. The team, comprising juniors and seniors, competed against almost fifty other schools in the US in a tournament in Los Angeles, California. The team took their A-game, and brought home great results.

Many of the team members placed within the top five in both duet and solo divisions. Competitors include seniors Natalie Myrick, Colin Wilson, Joe Townsend, Caitlyn Balkcum, Nick Pierle, Grant Hedrick, Morgan Summers, Bryce Edwards, and Katie Rosenberger. With them were juniors Katie Gallagher, Jenna Newman, Anna Gallucci, and Zeke Edmonds.

Some of the top placements



MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUSICAL THEATER COMPETITION TEAM WON AWARDS, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD-ED TO ZEKE EDMONDS WITH THE TRIPLE THREAT AWARD PHOTO CREDIT: KERRI HUGHES

include Grant Hedrick and Katie Gallagher, who placed fourth in the duet division, and Joe Townsend and Anna Gallucci, who won third place in their duet. Katie

Gallagher placed third overall in the solo division, and Natalie Myrick also placed in the top four. Anna Gallucci brought home the gold with a first place in her solo.

“I sang Astonishing from Little Women, and it was difficult to do,” said Gallucci. “There was a big emotional shift, and that took

more practice than the notes.” Evidently, it all paid off. “I was dumbfounded when they called my name. I was so surprised, I couldn’t believe it,” Gallucci said.

To many of the team members, critique by live judges was the most stressful part.

“Even though it was hard, it was really helpful,” said senior Joe Townsend. “I actually enjoyed it.”

“I had two judges, and one didn’t really say anything,” said junior Katie Gallagher. “But the other one kept talking and she made no sense. Even Mr. B was confused. She told me to make more of an ‘eh’ sound in my low notes. What does that even mean?”

The most prestigious award, however, would have to go to junior Zeke Edmonds. He won the Triple Threat Award, which means that he was the top singer, actor, and dancer out of all the competitors from all teams.

“I was in shock when they called my name,” Edmonds said. “I was so excited. I’ve been working extremely hard this year. I’ve put so much time into it, and taken so many classes.

So it felt really good.”

Edmonds also performed a duet with junior Jenna Newman, which took third place, and one with senior Colin Wilson, which received excellent reviews from the judges.

“We had a lot of energy and character, and they really liked that,” said Edmonds.

Even with many awards, Edmonds doesn’t let it go to his head.

“I could definitely improve for next year. I really hope to. What the judges say sometimes, it’s hard, and you don’t want to hear it, but it helps you improve for next time.”

Townsend feels confident that even after the seniors, who made up most of the team, leave, the team will continue to prosper.

“A lot of our talent came from the junior class,” said Townsend. “I have no doubt that they can definitely continue the tradition.”

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Features

Students embrace volunteer opportunity with Mission of Hope

ZACH ROBBE
Staff Reporter

Mission of Hope is a non-profit organization that follows Christ’s teachings and serves the population in Haiti spiritually and physically. It was founded in 1998 and continues to bring hope to the hopeless in and to educate future generations to bring Haiti out of poverty. Mission of Hope provides orphan care, education, medical care, and disaster relief.

Sophomore twins April and Andrew Purvis recently signed up for a mission trip to Haiti where they will work with Mission of Hope to bring relief to the population over the summer. They were offered this opportunity through their youth group at their local church in Forest Hill.

“My group leader told me all about it and I wanted to go immediately,” said Sophomore April Purvis. “I remembered this bible verse from when I was younger that said we should model our actions after Jesus and I knew this was my chance. I feel like God wants me to do this.” April and Andrew have attended

two mission trips to Pittsburgh with their youth group in previous years. They have much needed experience

about the trip but it will put her out of her comfort zone.

In order for them to travel to

play in concerts in order to raise money for the trip. April said, “I was nervous at first that I was not going

suffering of Haitians. There are over 300,000 children in Haiti so the Mission of Hope, partnered with other orphanages, aims to help orphans and provide them with a home. April said, “I really want to work in the Orphanage because I really love kids and I think I could really make a contribution.” April will also be leading a youth group in Haiti.

Andrew said he will most likely help build new houses as part of an extensive building plan to create homes for families. Mission of Hope, partnered with Hope for Haiti, is planning to build 500 houses for those in need and those who lost their homes during the earthquake. The organizations are working with Haitians to boost the economy and to give people jobs.

Before Andrew and April go to Haiti, they must go through medical screening and receive shots to protect against diseases in Haiti. “It’s a month-long process that I’m not excited for,” said April.



JUNIORS APRIL AND ANDREW PURVIS ENJOY HELPING WITH MISSION OF HOPE.
PHOTO CREDIT:ZACH ROBBE

working with the less fortunate which will prepare them for Haiti. April said that she is not nervous

Haiti, the twins must raise money from fundraisers. They have sent letters to friends and acquaintances requesting donations. Different aspiring musicians have agreed to

to raise enough money but you just have to trust God with it.”

While in Haiti, the group will be providing orphan care, building houses, and helping to relieve the

Debate team rises to the top in competitions

RORY QUIGLEY
Staff Reporter

This year Charlotte Catholic’s debate team has taken strides towards greatness. Sponsored by history teacher Mr. Keane and coached by Ms. Moralis and her son Mathew Moralis, the team is starting to claim their place among the many clubs the school has to offer.

Certain individuals in the fifteen person club have recently begun to shine, placing in city and state wide competitions. One such participant is junior Stephen Prys.

“I initially joined the team for my college application, but throughout the competitions I got more and more into it and I realized I was actually having a lot of fun,” said Prys. The other students who have ranked in the tournaments were juniors Frankie Prey and Grant Hattenhauer, and sophomore Brett Heinz.

The competitions consist of three specific types of debates: Lincoln-Douglas (one vs. one), public form (2 vs. 2), and Student Congress. Student congress is more of an address to a group of people than a debate over a topic.

The size of the competitions vary from an event with just a few local schools to a regional tournament involving different schools from all over North Carolina and the surrounding states.

“The talent that comes from other schools is very unpredictable. There are a number of good schools and bad. Ardrey Kell, North Meck,

and Riverside are definitely the hardest opponents we’ve faced so far,” said Hattenhauer.

To prepare for the competitions, debate team members are given the topics that will be focused on during the upcoming debates. In order to acquire background information about these topics, members use trusted sources either from the Internet or briefs.

The briefs, purchased by Ms. Moralis, are reliable sources with background material on a specific topic had been formally debated by politicians and experts.

“After the information for the topics are found and backed up, we form our own opinion on the topic and begin to lay out the basic floor plan for what we will talk about during our event,” said Prys.

When arrived at the location of a competition, usually another high school, the team sits around a table to make their final preparations before the meet. Once the schedule is given out the participants find the class room where they will be competing for the day.

Catholic provides a bus for transportation to the event, but riding it is not required.

“When we get there everyone has a laptop out trying to get the last little leg up on their competition, but once the debate starts everyone is pretty much on their own,” said Hattenhauer.

Smart Phone app fads demand student attention

TOMAS ROY
Staff Reporter

Many students who own an iPhone, iPod touch or Android phone often share with their friends about the next new mobile app or game that has become a hit on the App Store or the Android Market. Whether by word of mouth or their place on the top charts, apps like Angry Birds, Tiny Wings, Instagram, Words with Friends, Temple Run and Draw Something have become instant fads among hundreds of users.

Among the growing list of popular apps, games like Words with Friends and Draw Something seemed to become to popular instantaneously. These apps are different from many other popular games because of their multiplayer functionality. Both games allow users to connect with their friends through Facebook or email and compete against each other.

Multiplayer apps like Words with Friends and Draw Something become popular faster than other apps because they require real opponents and many users like to play with someone they know. In an effort to play with more people, friends will tell their friends to download the app, and the growth in the number of users becomes exponential. “The first time I tried to add a new game on Draw Something there were maybe 10 or 20 people on my Facebook who were playing the game. The next day there were at least 50,” said Sophomore Desi Toal.

Instead of simply aiming for a high score or the key to the next level, users of multiplayer apps that play with their friends compete in an ongoing game. Many iPhone or Android owners use their phone’s gaming functionality to pass the time when they’re bored, but once they begin a multiplayer game with a friend, they’re expected to constantly return to the app and

almost like texting. It’s what I did when I turned on my phone,” said Sophomore Lauren Rusak.

Another trend of these multiplayer apps, however, is the rate at which users lose interest in continuing their ongoing games. At Charlotte Catholic, many students noticed that while Words with Friends and Draw Something initially seemed exciting and generated lots of hype, within a week or two very few people were still playing. “[Words with Friends] seemed great at first but eventually people just quit responding to our games” said Rusak.

Despite the manner in which these apps quickly lose the interest of many users, they are downloaded nonetheless, and the concept of multiplayer games has become a promising field for mobile app developers targeting high school audiences.



STUDENTS WITH SMART PHONES CAN’T HELP BUT TAKE PART IN THE APP FAD.
PHOTO CREDIT:TOMAS ROY

play their turn. “When Words with Friends was popular, it was

Features

New book club engages students in reading outside the classroom

SAM LEFLORE
Staff Reporter

“The Poets, Priests, and Paperbacks” book club headed



THE POETS, PRIESTS AND PAPERBACKS CLUB MEETS AFTER SCHOOL TO DISCUSS NOVELS THEY ARE READING AND TO SHARE THEIR OPINIONS ON THE LITERARY WORK.
PHOTO CREDIT:SAM LEFLORE

up by English teacher Mr. Kuhn, gives students the opportunity to read a book in their spare time and then join with other students to discuss the book in a fishbowl style discussion.

A fishbowl is a way of discussing literature in a way where all students can participate. There are five seats in the middle and the remaining students sit in a ring around the five. The only students permitted to speak are the ones in the middle, and the only way to get in on the conversation is to tap someone out of the middle.

Mr. Kuhn is trying a new style of discussion in the March meeting of the club where all the students sit together. His hope is that it will be less intimidating and the shy

students will participate a little more.

“I started the club because I wanted to combine my love for literature with my concern with catholic spirituality. I learned a great

“I want students to recognize that Catholic values can be found outside of the religion class, in literature,” said Mr. Kuhn.

Some students may feel that the only place that religion can be found is in class or in church, but there are many places that they can branch out and explore their faith.

“My favorite part of the club is watching students willingly participate. I like knowing that they are sacrificing their free time and energy to these discussions. The resulting dialogues are inspiring. I am often humbled by the profound faith of some students,” said Mr. Kuhn.

Mr. Blue, the book discussed in the February meeting, is being integrated into the religion department and will be a part of Mrs. Tarney’s class next year

“I want to see us discuss books that find their way into part of the curriculum. And maybe part of a class that offers works of literature that are comparable to the club,” said Mr. Kuhn.

“I want wider participation of all four grades and a wider variety of titles, suggested by the students,” said Kuhn.

The club is a great way to get involved in meaningful discussions with your peers and a great way to better your literary knowledge.

deal through connecting my faith with literature,” said Mr. Kuhn.

The books chosen for the club are books that have a spiritual connection. Books like Mr. Blue, which is about a modern day St. Francis who gives up his wealth to better focus on his faith and love for God.

“I try to choose books that are first, engaging, and second, books that involve religious themes or ideas,” said Kuhn.

To further the conversation, a priest from our dioceses participates in the discussion. This allows students to discuss their ideas with a person who knows so much about the Catholic faith. It helps to keep the spiritual a dimension in the discussion.

Sophomore Gabriel Luciani pursues film industry

KELLY COOK
Staff Reporter

Gabriel Luciani isn’t your average Charlotte Catholic student. His extensive resume alone sets him apart from the common crowd, but his vast knowledge of the film industry makes him one of a kind.

At only sixteen years old, Gabriel knows more about movies than many could hope to learn in an entire lifetime. Ask him anything about directing, cinematography, or even foreign films, and he will produce an answer beyond his years, packed full of details and personal insights.

Since the age of thirteen, Gabriel has devoted his time to the study of films, with aspirations of becoming a successful director. What sparked his interest? The answer might surprise you.

“I used to watch what everyone else watched, but in the summer

Sundance Film Festival, held yearly in Park City, Utah. The festival is open to all, actors and moviegoers alike, and attendees watch the newest films in venues around the city.

“Sundance is much more inviting and casual than some other festivals, and everyone is treated equally, regardless of who they are. All of the theaters are located in the same vicinity; from high school gyms to hotels. There’s one main road and it’s an absolutely adorable city,” Gabriel said.

When he’s not attending festivals, Gabriel watches most movies through Netflix, and foreign films tend to be his favorites. It’s the emotional and thought-provoking films that often catch his eye and leave a lasting impression.

“The greatest films ever made were European 40’s and 50’s films. They are fundamentally vital to the cinema we see today. If a film can



GABRIEL LUCIANI COMMITS HIS TIME AND EFFORT TO LEARN AND EXCEL IN FILM STUDIES.
PHOTO CREDIT: KELLY COOK

Spring brings new ways to wear your wardrobe

KERRI HUGHES
Staff Reporter

It’s spring again, and that means more ways to dress up the uniform. Even though winter never got to coming around, the coming warm months have brought a whole new array of choices for students to spice up the plain, everyday uniform. So here’s how to do it.

Ways to add flare to uniforms haven’t changed, but what have changed are the trends that have hit runways and especially this season’s Fashion Weeks.

Firstly, toss those Uggs back into the closet. New spring shoes have arrived. Collegefashion.com’s list of stylish spring shoe trends for school includes a perennial favorite: flats. The twist, however, is that this season, cap-toe flats are the way to go. Basically, this means that the toe of the shoe is a different color and material than the rest of the shoe.

Peep toe flats are also hot this year.

Don’t be afraid to rock wedges, either. The ‘platforms,’ or level-heeled platform shoes, from last year have returned. However, instead of looking like a little kid in flip flops, try a cork or woven bottom. Brands have also raised the heel a bit to suggest the classic wedge.

Last is the ‘boat shoe.’ Don’t be put off by the name; you already know what these are. Does the name Sperry ring a bell? If so, you probably own a pair, and you’re in luck. Boat shoes have made a comeback, and in loud patterns too.

Speaking of colors and designs, New York’s Fashion Week saw a big trend in prints. It’s something that HarpersBazaar.com has nicknamed “Flower Power.” Crank up that David Bowie and Donna Summer because 70s prints are back. Peter Som, J. Crew, and Alexander Wang are just a few designers who brought back the floral print.

Another style slowly making its way into fashion is tribal. Jewelry and prints held a sort of ‘straight from Africa’ feel. This means wood, rustic, multi-patterned, and a combination of neutral and bright colors. Michael Kors, Burberry, and Donna Karan all featured tribal jewelry pieces in their collections.

Spring is the perfect season to add some more personality to the standard uniform that annoys us all. This year’s styles provide a wide range of trends, so take your pick. You don’t have to splurge on the expensive or high end brand, either. Lots of more affordable stores have adopted these trends as well. As always, make it your own, and have fun doing it (while sticking to the rules, of course).

of 2008, I saw Jaws on TV and something stuck out to me. I realized there was better quality in some films and after I began studying them, I decided it was something I wanted to pursue and create myself,” said Gabriel.

From that moment on, Gabriel’s love of films grew rapidly, and over the course of two years he has had the opportunity to experience many aspects of the industry firsthand.

Most recently, Gabriel landed a spot as an extra in the much anticipated film The Hunger Games, being released this month. Gabriel jumped at the chance to be in the movie, and was exposed to the complex process of making a film.

He and 200 other extras made up the District 12 set, where on the first day they spent nearly 16 hours on set, dressed in meticulously planned costumes. When not chatting with actor Josh Hutcherson, Gabriel waited for direction from director Gary Rossey, who shouted instructions through a megaphone in between takes.

Before his stint as an extra, however, Gabriel attended the

teach me something about humans, or enlighten me on how people think, then it is a true work of art. I want to bring back the original, methodic thought that went into those films,” Gabriel said.

Exposure to such events would make anyone eager to pursue a job in the film industry, and Gabriel is no exception. When he attends the University of North Carolina School of the Arts next year, he hopes to set the foundations for his career. He was one of 23 out of 200 applicants to get accepted and will enter the school’s visual arts program.

Sports

Men’s Lacrosse team overcomes obstacles, seeks victorires over rivals

TYLER SCHILLY
Staff Reporter

After a tumultuous 2011, the men’s lacrosse team is looking forward to this season as an opportunity to clean up its off-field image while reaching new levels of on-field success.

Last year’s squad finished with a respectable 12-8 record that included big wins over rivals Weddington and Marvin Ridge, but some of the season’s achievements were lost amid negative incidents involving numerous team members. Because of this, the players have begun working on “Solution Revolution,” a program that is intended to improve their character and image.

As part of the program team members stay after school and assist teachers with tasks such as stacking chairs or cleaning up classrooms. They serve as a volunteer crew, helping where they are needed. The players say that this after-school volunteer work has helped them grow closer as a team and also has improved their image in the eyes of classmates and opponents.

“I believe it will have a positive impact on the team because we are

helping our image but also helping our school,” said junior attack Kevin Jette, who has netted seven goals so far this season.

With its image issues being taken care of, the team can focus on its on-field performance. The team got off to a fast start this season, playing well at the annual Jamboree. The squad then went on a winning streak that included a tough victory over Lake Norman Charter. Dominating many of its opponents, the team’s only two losses thus far have both been one goal games, one against yearly power Marvin Ridge, and the other against McCallie High School, a strong program from Georgia.

Wins over Country Day and Ardrey Kell have thus far been the highlights of the season. In its victories the team has displayed

an impressive balance of agressive offensive play and strong work on defense. The team also has shown that it is improving with each game, which bodes well as the squad begins to prepare for postseason play.

Although last year ended with a disappointing one goal loss to Providence, this year’s team is determined to play hard all year and contend for a state championship. Key players Lane Beach and Adam Hebert graduated last spring, but Jette believes that this year’s squad has the talent to replace them.

“We have many leaders on our team such as Tyler Jankun, Tim Egan, Ethan Desmond, Connor Flynn, and Nick Sawyer. We also have many solid young players that will help us increase our depth at every position,” said Jette.

Some of these underclassmen who are expected to contribute are freshman Jake Priester and



INJURED PLAYERS COULD PROVE THE COUGARS’ CHANCES AT A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPOSSIBLE.
PHOTO CREDIT: CONNOR FLYNN

sophomore Peyton Swancy. Juniors Brad Nelson and Ryan Manion are returning players from last year who are expected to help solidify the team using their experience and talent.

Unfortunately for the team junior Connor Flynn, one of the team’s best players, has a broken ankle and will miss at least the rest of the regular season. He will see how it feels after the boot comes off and there is a small chance he will be able to return for the playoffs.

Because of this the defense, led by goalie Brian Dorsey and defensemen Ethan Desmond, Brnadon Ruder, and Ryan Beltrondo, will need to step up its play. Junior Nick Sawyer will be counted on to take on a heaier load of the scoring with Flynn unable to play. Seniors Tim Egan and Tyler Jankun will also have to try to contribute even more on the offensive end.

The team is coached by Bo Turner, who has led the team for many successful seasons in a row. His leadership, coupled with that of the seniors on the team, should help the team succeed this year.

Women’s basketball ends season on a high note

EMILY FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The Charlotte Catholic Women’s basketball team ended their season with a bang! Having a solid record of 11-12, it was no shock that the Lady Cougs were not only able to score baskets, but also a spot in the playoffs.

“Well our playoff story is sort of funny. We didn’t even expect to go to playoffs so when we made it, we planned to practice on Monday. But then we found out that the game was on Monday and not Tuesday so we didn’t really prepare for playoffs. And I think that was good because we all played very relaxed and without any nerves,” said senior caption Colleen Hutson.

Although they consider Harding their biggest rival, the basketball team had the opportunity to play Berry in the playoffs. The girls still took a lot from the game even though it ended their season.

“I felt that we while the score might not reflect it we played a very strong game in the playoffs. We were all proud to leave the court on that performance,” said Colleen Huston.

Making it into the playoffs was not easy, these ladies worked hard all season in order to secure a spot in which many would consider one of the hardest games of the season.

The lady cougars practiced Monday through Friday starting November 1 and played at least two games a week. The basketball team also played in several tournaments,

such as one in Atlanta, one in Pennsylvania, and the Holy Angels Tournament hosted by Charlotte Catholic.

Despite their hard work, these ladies feel that their team unity helped their overall performance more than anything.

“I think that we all meshed together really well, especially considering that the team was made up of seniors, sophomores, and a freshman! Conrad even created an inside team called the TD’s! We brought energy and aggressiveness to the practices,” said sophomore Carson Cook.

The 2011-2012 women’s basketball team is one of the youngest CCHS has ever had, consisting of nine underclassmen out of thirteen people. With all of the seniors leaving, the ladies owe a lot to them for not only their good performance in the playoffs, but also their leadership.

“I am so sad about the seniors leaving and I don’t want them to go! They bring a lot of leadership and a lot of funny aspects to our team meetings,” said sophomore Carson Cook.

The performance of the lady cougars this season was great and it is hard to deny that the seniors truly represented their team well during their last few times on the CCHS basketball court.

Men’s tennis looks to improve on last year’s second place finish

TYLER SCHILLY
Staff Reporter

After finishing second in the state last year, the men’s tennis team has nearly every member back for 2012 and is geared up to make another run for the state title.

Winning its first three matches of this season in impressive fashion, the team has shown it is motivated to avenge last year’s state finals loss to Cardinal Gibbons High School. The team has been working hard, practicing two hours every day it doesn’t have a match.

“In tennis there is no off-season,” said junior Nick Russo, a player who has stepped into a more significant role on the varsity squad this season.

Those early victories displayed the depth of the Cougars’ talent, since number one player Kyle Johnson was still recovering from a knee injury suffered during a church league basketball game in January. The injury forced the other members of the team to play one spot above their normal positions, but the Cougars were able to adjust and compete well.

Senior Matt Martinez successfully filled the number one slot for the squad during Johnson’s absence, and the addition of junior Collin Wohlfert, a new student to Charlotte Catholic, has given the

team a huge boost. Seniors William Clementi and Zach Satchee return to the squad, and juniors Russo and Forrest Boone have both cracked the varsity lineup this year. This combination of experience and



THE SUCCESSFUL COUGARS TENNIS TEAM IS LED BY OME OF THE BEST SINGLES-PALYERS IN THE STATE.
PHOTO CREDIT: NICK RUSSO

the team also benefits from the leadership of its coach, Mr. Hazen. He was named the North Carolina Tennis Association coach of the year in 2011, and under his leadership Catholic has won 24 conference championships, including 21 in a row. Mr. Hazen was also named the Mega-7 coach of the year last year, an award he earned by leading the team to 144 conference wins in a row, a streak that dates back to 1990. “We have a great, great coach in Mr. Hazen. He recently won an award from the NCTA, and he always has good words of encouragement and advice,” said Russo.

The team’s only two losses so far this season have been to Ardrey Kell and Providence, both schools that are a division above Charlotte Catholic and that are ranked in the top five in the state for their division. Despite this, the Cougars were able to play them tough, which should bode well for the team as its level of competition intensifies over the duration of the season.

Sports

Cougar swimmers qualify for Olympic Trials in summer 2012

TYLER SCHILLY
Staff Reporter

After winning the state championship members of the women’s swim team have set their sights on more challenging and prestigious goals. In Greensboro earlier this month sophomore Lauren Rhodes and freshman Nora McCullough both reached the time cuts necessary to qualify for the Olympic Trials. There they will join sophomore Elsa Welshofer who obtained her time cut last August. The trials, which will determine new members of the Olympic team, will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at the end of June.

For Rhodes this achievement has been a long time coming. She began swimming competitively when she was just five years old and has been striving to meet the Olympic Trial qualifying times for over a year. Her hard work was finally rewarded when she reached 26.32 seconds in the 50 meter free style and 56.95 seconds in the 100 meter free during



LAUREN RHODES, NORA MCCULLOUGH, AND ELSA WELSHOFER WILL TRAVEL TO OMAHA NEBRASKA FOR OLYMPIC TRIALS AT THE END OF JUNE. PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN RHODES

Senior Sectionals in Greensboro a few weeks ago. “I was so excited that I got my cut because I’ve been trying for it for over a year,” said Rhodes. Welshofer, who has been

swimming since she was six, had been working towards the cut for the past five years. She finally reached the time she needed last August by swimming the 100 meter butterfly in a swift 1:01:69, which is three tenths of a second faster than the cut time.

“I was so excited that I started crying after I saw my time. It was kind of embarrassing but I was just so happy,” said Welshofer.

After watching the last Olympics, in 2008, McCullough decided that her next goal would be to qualify for the trials. Her hard work paid off at Senior Sectionals where, alongside Rhodes, she beat the time cuts for the 50 meter freestyle and 100 meter freestyle.

All three swimmers compete for MAC, which Welshofer says is the most competitive swimming organization in the area. They practice 9 times a week, with some days of practices early in the morning and then again in the afternoon. Despite this grueling schedule all three ladies still love

swimming and wouldn’t think of quitting.

“It’s just something that I’ve been doing for so long, I couldn’t imagine not doing it,” said McCullough.

Even after reaching their cuts they can’t relax because the competition at trials will be fierce. Rhodes said that over 2,000 swimmers from across the country will be there, with only the top sixteen being selected to advance to semis. After semis the field will be narrowed to eight for finals, where two swimmers from each event are chosen for the Olympic squad.

“I’m kinda nervous going to the meet cause it’s one of the biggest meets in the country, but I’m still excited,” said Rhodes.

Regardless of their performances at the trials, these three swimmers have already achieved something that many people only dream about and for that they should be commended. Good luck at trials ladies.

UNC scandal leaves Charlotte Catholic fans disappointed

ZACH ROBBE
Staff Reporter

After an investigating the allegations against the UNC football team the NCAA infractions committee hit UNC with a postseason ban next year, the reduction of fifteen scholarships over three years, and a three-year probation.

The NCAA launched its investigation in June of last year. The allegations include academic fraud and a failure to monitor



ALMOST ALL FALL SPORTS HAVE WORN PINK TO SHOW SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH. PHOTO CREDIT: OPRAHWINFERY.COM

their football program. Some players allegedly received improper benefits such as jewelry and gifts from persons outside the program and a tutor provided improper help to players on term papers.

After learning of the allegations, the school imposed penalties on its football team. These include forfeiting all wins from the 2008 and 2009 seasons and implementing a two-year probation hoping that the NCAA would not levy more penalties on the program. When the decision came on March 12 the program was disappointed. The school tried to appease the NCAA to reduce the punishment, but the severity of the allegations prompted the NCAA to levy more severe sanctions against the school.

The NCAA discovered that UNC

allowed six ineligible athletes to play and multiple athletes received impermissible benefits worth over \$31,000. Former assistant coach John Blake received compensation from agent Gary Wichard for the access he supplied to Wichard. A tutor named Jennifer Wiley revised student’s papers, wrote paragraphs, and added works cited pages. For these violations the NCAA issued harsher penalties.

Sophomore Duke fan Steven Spath said, “I think the punishment is fair and well deserved. I have always disliked UNC sports teams but this gives me another reason to not have respect for them.” On the other hand some disagree. Sophomore UNC fan Ethan Mead said, “I’m disappointed in the coaches and players who were involved, but it doesn’t change the way I look at the school. Obviously they’re not the only school who did

it, but they did get caught and are suffering the consequences. It’s a great school and like I said, it hasn’t changed the way I look at UNC and their sports teams.”

The loss of a 2012 bowl game is toughest for the seniors unable to play in another bowl game unless they transfer to another school. If the team wins the ACC Coastal Division they will not be able to play in the league championship. The loss of fifteen scholarships puts tremendous pressure on new head coach Larry Fedora and his staff during the recruiting season. They will lose depth on the team and will have to be more selective during the recruiting process.

The timing of the NCAA ruling was favorable for the Tar Heels. Since the ruling occurred after the signing period, new recruits were not affected by the loss of a postseason bowl game. Prospects might have signed with other schools if the ruling had taken place beforehand. Next year’s recruits will not have to worry about a postseason ban.

Players and coaches alike are relieved that the investigation is over and they can focus on adjusting to a new coach and offense.

Men’s Golf team keeps swingin’

EMILY FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The men’s varsity golf team started their season with a bang! Having won their first two conference matches, the stakes are higher this year than last.

So far the boys are undefeated, and they hope to remain so.

“I expect us to have a great season because we have great talent. I also expect we will win conference, go undefeated, finish top three in regionals, and hopefully win states. I have no doubt in my mind that we will be able to reach these goals with no problems if we continue to work as hard as we have been,” said sophomore Ethan Mead.

Charlotte Catholic’s conference consists of Berry, Olympic, East Gaston, and Garringer. The boys practice at Carolina Golf Club and Piper Glen on Tuesdays and Thursdays under the watchful eye of coach Bob McCormick, but also on their own.

“Most of us practice on our own but I personally work out daily all year round and work on various parts of my game at a time, I spend a lot of time on my short game and I also try to eat well. Golf is a hard sport and very mental as much as it is physical. I also play in year round tournaments to keep my game sharp. It’s also good to play games when practicing to keep the competitiveness up,” said sophomore Ethan Mead.

For these boys practicing is critical if they are to beat their biggest rivals: Charlotte Latin and Country Day.

While individual work

is important, teamwork also is important. If a teammate is in a bad mood or unsupportive, it often reflects on their scores.

“I feel really good about my teammates. We get along most of the time and we have really good chemistry! There’s a lot of talent on the team this year,” said sophomore Ethan Mead.

Winning regionals and states is definitely attainable for these boys. The team’s accomplishments include having a freshman as the conference player of the year, going to states, shooting competitive rounds under par, winning golf tournaments, getting noticed from College golf coaches, and even making a hole in one!

“I feel we have a really good team this year lead by veterans and experience and just really good, solid players. I feel we are in for a great year and the sky is the limit if we continue to play the way we have,” said senior Jared Wischan.

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